

Serial No. 09/512,411

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Remarks

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 16-21 are pending in the application.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-2, 5-8, 10, 16-18 and 20-21 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Turunen in view of Suarez.

Claims 3, 4, 11 and 19 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Turunen in view of Suarez further in view of Kidder.

Claim 1

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect regarding the relevance of Turunen to claim 1.

Claim 1 requires:

"generating, in the foreign network, a modified reply message of an internet Protocol packet having a source address of the mobile node's care of address in place of the mobile node's home address and a destination address of the correspondent node;"

The above feature is not disclosed by Turunen column 2 lines 23-36 and column 6 lines 20-50. As the Examiner indicates, those passages of Turunen relate to "the host is registered with a foreign agent..., whenever the mobile host registers with a new foreign network, a new care-of address is set to the home network's home agent to replace the previously registered care-of address".

All this means is that as the mobile roams to a new foreign network the home agent is kept up-to-date as to the new care-of address to be used for correctly directing data packets.

Why is this done in Turunen? The answer is that the home agent (in the home network) replaces the old mobile node address with the new mobile node care-of address to ensure correct redirection of packets to the mobile, column 2 lines 57 to 64. All datagrams (i.e. packets) directed to the mobile pass through the home agent, column 2 line 67 to column 3 line 4.

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What this does not disclose is in the foreign network generating a modified reply message having a source address of the mobile node's care-of address in place of the mobile node's home address.

To provide a modified reply message, the skilled reader of Turunen might well instead turn to the known technique of tunneling described in the two references of Perkins mentioned on the front page of Turunen, and copies of which are enclosed for ease of reference. This known technique involves encapsulating a packet within a new longer packet having additional headers including the care-of address. However, this known technique of tunneling, which is described in page 1 line 28 to page 4 line 4 of the present application, has the significant disadvantage that the flow identifications in the original packet necessary for QoS provision become hidden, see page 11 line 20 to page 12 line 5 of the present application.

In contrast to that, in the present invention, simply having the mobile node's care-of address in place of the mobile node's home address enables flow identification information to be tracked, (e.g. page 12 line 6 to 13 of the present application), for example enabling correct handling of RSVP protocol so as to provide quality of service, see e.g. page 19 lines 22 to page 20 line 2 of the present application.

None of the other cited art, in particular Suarez and Kidder, appear to teach or suggest the feature in the foreign network generating a modified reply message having a source address of the mobile node's home address in place of the mobile node's home address. It follows that claim 1 is patentable to the standard of 35 USC103(a).

On a relatively minor point, contrary to the Examiner's contention, another difference between claim 1 and Turunen, additionally emphasized by amendment of claim 1, is that it is a quality of service session that is established between the correspondent node and mobile node. Turunen does not appear to teach or suggest the feature of a "quality of service session".

Claims 2-8, 10-11

Dependent claims 2-8, 10-11 are patentable not least on the basis that they each depend on an allowable independent claim 1.

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Claim 16

The Examiner is incorrect as to the relevance of Turunen to claim 16 for similar reasoning to that indicated in respect of claim 1.

Claim 16 requires

“a proxy device, in the foreign network...for generating a modified reply message having a source address of the mobile node's care-of address in place of the mobile node's home address” (emphasis added)

The Examiner refers to Turunen column 6 line 41-52 which talks of the home agent (which is part of the home network, see e.g. Turunen column 5 line 49) receiving and redirecting datagrams to the mobile (emphasis added).

This is different.

Also claim 16 has been amended to additionally emphasise the “quality of service session” aspect.

Claims 17 to 20

Claims 17 to 20 are patentable not least on the basis that they each depend on an allowable independent claim 16.

Claim 21

Claim 21 has been amended to be dependent upon claim 1 and is patentable not least on the basis that it depends on an allowable independent claim 1.

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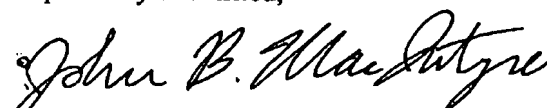
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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, allowance of all the claims presently in the application is respectfully requested, as is passage to issuance of the application. If the Examiner should feel that the application is not yet in a condition for allowance and that a telephone interview would be useful, he is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at 630 979 4637

Respectfully submitted,



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